

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CCO-00 FBO-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 OC-05 IO-10 SAM-01 SAJ-01

SCCT-01 AID-05 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NIC-01 NSC-05

SP-02 OPR-01 PA-01 USSS-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 A-01 OMB-01

SS-15 SY-04 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 CU-02 /090 W

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Z O 201700Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 0947

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

USDOCOSUTH IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

WASHDC IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE

USCINCNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

USEUCOM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T NICOSIA 0258

DEPT PASS TO USIA

LONDON FOR LAMBRAKIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CY ASEC PFOR PINT

SUBJECT: SUMMARY: NICOSIA EMBASSY SECURITY SITUATION, JAN 20

REF: A. NICOSIA 249

B. NICOSIA 250

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C. NICOSIA 251

D. NICOSIA 255

1. THREE SIGNIFICANT DEMONSTRATIONS TOOK PLACE IN NICOSIA JANUARY 20. THE LARGEST WAS A MEETING OF APPROXIMATELY 5,000 PERSONS IN METAXAS SQUARE ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF CONFEDERATIONS OF CYPRUS WORKERS (SEK), COMMUNIST LABOR ORGANIZATION(PEO), UNION OF CYPRUS BANK EMPLOYEES (ETVK), AND PAN-CYPRIAN ORGANIZATION OF ARTISANS, TRADESMEN, AND SHOPKEEPERS (POVEK). THESE ORGANIZATIONS CALLED ONE-HOUR WORK STOPPAGE AT 1100 HOURS WHICH, ACCORDING TO RANKING POLICE OFFICIAL, WAS 93 PERCENT EFFECTIVE. MEETING APPROVED A PROTEST RESOLUTION TO BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER AND WAS COMPLETELY ORDERLY.

2. AT 1000 HOURS ABOUT 2,000 YOUTHS WITH SPRINKLING OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES DEMONSTRATED AGAINST USIS LIBRARY (AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER) FOR ONE HOUR AND ATTEMPTED TO ENTER, PURPORTEDLY WITH INTENT TO RENAME LIBRARY FOR GREEK CYPRIOT KILLED DURING JANUARY 17 AKROTIRI RIOT. THEY WERE VIGOROUSLY RESISTED BY POLICE, NATIONAL GUARD AND FIRE DEPARTMENT. TEARGAS AND WATER WERE USED; NATIONAL GUARD FIRED SHOTS IN AIR OVER CROWD'S HEAD, WHICH REPLIED WITH STONES AND SLING SHOTS. FIFTEEN PERSONS WERE SLIGHTLY INJURED. WE HAVE FIRM INFORMATION THAT LYSSARIDES SUPPORTERS WERE ACTIVE IN MOB AND HAD OBJECTIVE OF SETTING FIRE TO BUILDING. THEY FAILED THANKS TO QUICK RESPONSE OF AUTHORITIES. DAMAGE TO BUILDING IS RELATIVELY MINOR, CONFINED TO BROKEN FENCES AND DISPLAY CASE AND SOME SMALL FIRE SCARS.

3. DEMONSTRATION WAS STANDOFF UNTIL ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT MAKARIOS AT 1145 HOURS. MAKARIOS ARRIVED WITH FLOURISH. HE MINGLED WITH CROWD, URGED THEM TO DEMONSTRATE BUT ONLY NON-VIOLENTLY, AND THEN LED LARGE GROUP TO GREEK EMBASSY ON FOOT. LATER, PRESIDENT RETURNED TO AMERICAN CENTER WITH GREEK AMBASSADOR DOUNTAS AND GOC FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTOPHIDES TO INSPECT DAMAGE AND TALK WITH REMAINING GROUPS OF MORE PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATORS, WHO WERE PURSUING RECHRISTENING EFFORT THROUGH SIT-DOWN ON CULTURAL CENTER GROUNDS. REPRESENTATION OF FIVE STUDENTS FROM THIS GROUP LATER

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DELIVERED PETITION TO CHARGE.

4. POLICE WERE SUCCESSFUL THROUGHOUT DAY IN BREAKING UP A FEW OTHER BUDDING DEMONSTRATIONS ELSEWHERE IN CITY. HELICOPTER RECON OF CITY BY UNFICYP CHIEF OF STAFF AT 1330 HOURS CONFIRMED THAT USIS CROWD WAS ONLY LIVE MAJOR GATHERING AT THAT TIME.

5. APPROXIMATELY 160 YOUTHS CURRENTLY ENCAMPED UNDER TREES IN HILTON GARDEN. FROM ALL INDICATIONS, THEY PLAN TO SPEND THE NIGHT. CROWD COMPOSED OF SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF NICOSIA ELITE. HILTON MANAGER TELLS US MANY ARE MEMBERS OF HOTEL CLUB. SO FAR THIS HAS BEEN PEACEFUL PROTEST.

6. POLICE AND NATIONAL GUARD PROTECTION AROUND EMBASSY WAS HEAVY AND WELL ORGANIZED TODAY. POLICE COMMANDER CONFERRED FREQUENTLY WITH EMBASSY SECURITY OFFICER. WE HAD MADE IT CLEAR EARLIER IN DAY THAT PROTECTION OF EMBASSY TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY OF GOC, AND COMMANDER ASSURED EMBASSY THAT MAKARIOS HAD GIVEN PRECISE ORDERS TO USE FORCE NECESSARY TO PROTECT USG PROPERTY. DIRGEN MINISTRY ZGMAGN AFFAIRS INFORMED US THAT MAKARIOS WOULD APPEAR PERSONALLY AT SITE OF ANY VIOLENCE DIRECTED AT AMERICAN PROPERTY, WHICH HE IN FACT DID TODAY. FOREIGN MINISTER RENEWED THIS PLEDGE TO CHARGE TONIGHT.

7. EMBASSY PRESENTLY SECURED BY 30 NATIONAL GUARD AND 10 POLICE. MININTERIOR HAS NO INDICATIONS OF DEMONSTRATIONS JANUARY 21 BUT DOES NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY. PUBLIC RESENTMENT AND FRUSTRATION OVER TURKISH CYPRIOT AKROTIRI ALEWPUFT STILL RUNS HIGH. HOWEVER, IF GOC WILLING TO CONTINUE GENUINE EFFORT PROVIDE SECURITY, FUTURE DEMONSTRATIONS SHOULD NOT REPRESENT DANGER COMPARABLE TO THAT OF JANUARY 18.
BROWN

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